[redacted]

English Reprints.

EDWARD WEBBE,

Chief Master Gunner,

His Trauailes.

1590.

CAREFULLY EDITED BY

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BIRMINGHAM:
1 MONTAGUE ROAD.
1 May 1868.
No. 5.

G.

CONTENTS.

CHRONICLE

of

some of the principal events

in the

LIFE, ADVENTURES, and TIMES

of

EDWARD WEBBE,

Master Gunner, sometime Chief Master Gunner of France.

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* Probable or approximate dates.

WEBBE, apparently an unlettered man, goes confusedly backward and forward in his narration, so as to render any chronology of his life little better than guesswork. Some points can be fixed with certainty: from which it is clear, that when he gives years he speaks in round numbers; 13 meaning over 12 years: and the like.

1553. July 2. Mary succeeds to the crown.

*1554. Edward Webbe, born at St. Katherines, near the Tower of London. Is the son of Richard Webbe, Master Gunner of England, *p.* 17.

1558. Nov. 17. Elizabeth begins to reign.

Attendant on Captain Jenkinson, in Russia.

1566-6?. ætt. 12-14. "My father . . . . did prefer me to the seruice of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia . . . . and vpon him I was daylie attendant. . . . . There [at Moscow] I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my master." *pp.* 17, 18.

This statement fixes Webbe's birth in 1554. For prior to the burning of Moscow, Captain Anthony Jenkenson made but three voyages to Russia.

The first, 1557-60, included a visit to Bokhara; see Hakluyt, i. 310-338, Ed. 1599.

The second, 1561-64, included a visit to Persia: see Hakluyt, i. 338-352.

The third, 1566-68, is thus given in Hakluyt, i. 372.

"A very briefe remembrance of a voyage made by M. *Anthony Ienkinson*, from *London* to *Moscouia*, sent from the Queenes Maiestie to the Emperour, in the yeere 1566.

"The fourth day of May in the yeere aforesaid, I imbarked my selfe at *Grauesend*, in the good ship called the *Harry* of *London*, and hauing had a prosperous voyage arriued at the bay of S. *Nicholas* [in the White Sea] in *Russia* the 10 day of July following, and immediately I sent in post to the Emperor to aduertise of my comming and traueiling then thorowe the countrey, I with my company came to the *Mosco* where the Emperour kept his court, the 23. of August, and foorthwith gaue the Secretarie to vnderstand my arriuall, who aduertised the Emperours Maiestie, and the first day of September, being a solemne feast among the *Russes*, I came before the Emperours Maiestie, sitting in his seate of honour, and hauing kissed his hand, and done the Queenes Maiesties commendations, and deliuered her Graces letters and present, he had me to dinner, which I accepted, and had much honour done vnto me both then and all the time of my abode in *Russia*."

Captain Jenkinson appears to have remained in or about Moscow, until his return, which accounts for Webbe only alluding to the Russians, while with him.

Goes again to Russia.

1570. æt. 16. Webbe again goes out to Russia—this time to Narva, in the Gulf of Finland—in the English Russia fleet of 13 ships, under Captain William Burrough.

July 10. The fleet capture 5 ships of Danish rovers at Turtee island. For the official account of this fight, see Note 1. Webbe adds additional information as to the fate of the prisoners.

He appears to have remained through the winter at Moscow, for before the English fleet arrived next year,

A slave in the Crimea.

1571. May 24. æt. 17. Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars. For two accounts of which see Note 2.

Webbe escapes the fire and the crush only to become a slave. Giles Fletcher, writing twenty years later on, tells us,—

"The chiefe bootie the Tartars seeke for in all their warres, is to get store of captiues, specially yong boys and girls, whom they sell to the *Turkes*, or other their neighbors. To this purpose, they take with them great baskets made like bakers panniers to carrie them tenderly, and if any of them happen to tyer, or to be sicke on the way, they dash him against the ground, or some tree and so leave him dead." *Of the Russe Commonwealth, fol.* 69.

Webbe, with seven other Englishmen, is taken to Kaffa in the Crimea.

After some time (Webbe states five years), they are ransomed for 300 crowns = £112:10:0 of then English money, each.

It was probably on this return home, through Russia, that Webbe lost his all in the wreck of the *Hart*, 12 miles from Narva.

1566, *May*, 1. *Selim II. becomes Sultan of Turkey.*

1571. Oct. 7. 'The Sea-fight at Lepanto.' Don John of Austria, at the head of 203 galleys, and 6 great Venetian galeasses, fights the Turkish fleet of 240 galleys and 60 smaller vessels: and gains an immense victory, sinking 94 ships and capturing 130 more. 30,000 Turks are slain, and 15,000 Christian galley-slaves released from slavery.

A galley-slave in Turkey.

? Webbe sails in the *Henry* of London for Leghorn, *p.* 19.

? At Palermo, sees the Earl of Oxford give his challenge, *p.* 32.

1572. Oct. Don John retakes the *town* of Tunis from the Turks. The Spaniards had held the citadel already. Webbe states he was there in the *Royal*, *p.* 35.

From Leghorn the *Henry* is sent to Alexandria; with a crew of 60 men, among whom, and apparently for the first time, Webbe is Master gunner, *p.* 19.

? Returning from Alexandria, the *Henry* is, after a fight of 48 hours, captured by the Turks, *p.* 19. Webbe is made a galley-slave.

1574. *Dec.* 21. *Amurath III.* (*Murad Khan*) *becomes Sultan.*
1576. *May* 11. *Thamasp I., Shah of Persia, dies.*

A disputed succession leads to fierce contests and national disorder in Persia. Amurath determines to conquer it.

In Turkey.

1578. First campaign against Persia, from Erzeroum; under Mustapha Pasha (the conqueror of Cyprus). It is indecisive.

1579. Mustapha Pasha has a second indecisive campaign. He is recalled, and arrives in Constantinople 9 May 1580. Sinan Pasha appointed in his stead.

Chief Master Gunner, in chains, in Turkey.

*1580. Webbe, 'constrained for want of victuals,' discovers his skill in gunnery. Has to serve in the Persian war.

1582. June 1—July 22. Amurath circumcises his eldest son Mahomet. Feasting for 52 days and nights. See *J. von Hammer.*

æt. 28. Webbe makes a wonderful piece of fireworks, *pp.* 28, 29.

Nov. 14. 'The tall shippe called the *Susan* of *London* [24 guns]: the Master whereof was *Richard Parsons*' leaves Blackwall, and

1583. Jan. 14. Embarks, at the Isle of Wight, Master *William Harborne* and suite; being the first English Ambassador to the Great Turk.

Mar. 29. Mr. Harborne lands at Constantinople, and remains there 5 years.

The remainder of Webbe's travels while in slavery can only be put down as they are given to us.

Ali Pasha—a renegade Christian—with 60 gallies attempts his native town in Calabria.

From the Army in Persia, Webbe is taken by Damascus to Cairo.

At the Red sea, sees the *Grand Maria.*

Thence to Goa in the East Indies.

Thence by Bethlehem, Jerusalem, &c., again to Damascus

Thence to the land of Prester John [? Turkistan] 'within 18 degrees [=1080 miles] of the sun.'

Returns to Constantinople in time of famine, 'an English penny loaf of bread being worth a crown of gold.'

Is imprisoned in iron chains, grievously pinched with extreme penury at Constantinople, with 2000 other Christian slaves.

Webbe, on behalf of 500 Christian slaves, works through a 14 feet wall. Their attempt to escape is discovered, and they are punished, *p.* 28.

1585. Oct. 29. The Grand-Vizier, Osman Pasha dies.

Journeying towards England.

1588. æt. 34. 'Soone after the death of the great Basha' Mr. Harborne ransoms about 20 English men, 'whereof' Webbe 'was one of the last.'

Journeying towards England, he came by land to Venice. Then singularly enough, goes southward through Italy.

At Padua, he is tried for a heretic.

At Ferrara, he is well entertained.

At Bologna, an Englishman, a Catholic Bishop, Doctor Poole, shows him great friendship.

At Florence, he meets another Englishman, Mr. John Stanley.

At Rome, he is 19 days in trouble with the Pope and Cardinal Allen, but they let him pass, giving him 25 crowns. The English College however make a fool of him and imprison him three days, from which he is delivered by another Englishman.

*Aug. He is reviled with lying rumours as to the success of the Spanish Armada.

Aug. 3. Mr. Harborne and suite leave Constantinople; return-

Journey to England

fing home viâ the Danube, Poland, and the Hanse towns. *Hakluyt*, i. 400.

At Naples, Webbe is denounced by a Genoese as an English spy. Is 16 days in a dark dungeon: 'thrice had I ye strappado.' Is further imprisoned 7 months.

1589. *Feb. He petitions the Viceroy. The King appoints him one of his gunners, with 35 crowns a month.

Naturally he seizes the first opportunity of escape. Finally does get away in the *Grace* of London, Nicholas Nottingham, Master.

May 1. æt. 35. WEBBE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND, after 13 years absence.

May to Nov. Visits his friends.

In France.

Nov. Goes over into France. Henry IV. appoints him Chief Master Gunner in the field.

1590. Mar. 14. Battle of Ivry. Henry IV. beats the League, *p.* 34.

æt. 36. Jealous French gunners poison Webbe. He is saved by 'Unicorn's horn:' and returns to England.

Takes lodgings in Blackwall, where he writes his narrative, finally on

May 19 He dedicates his book.

THE TRAVELS

OF

EDWARD WEBBE.

INTRODUCTION.

THE dread of the Great Turk pervading Chriſtendom, in the days of Queen Elizabeth, is a thing hard of apprehenſion to the preſent generation of Engliſhmen. Beyond the comparatively petty inteſtine quarrels of Chriſtian princes, there ſeemed ſurely ſurging onwards the great wave of Mahomedan invaſion. In numbers incalculable, in numbers apparently inexhauſtible, the Turks had poured into Europe. Hardly a century had expired ſince they had blotted out the Eaſtern Roman Empire,—the venerable polity of eleven centuries, the bridge between ancient and modern hiſtory. Within that century, they had conquered Greece, Egypt, Rhodes, and Cyprus; had penetrated into Italy; and had carried devaſtation through Hungary, to the very walls of Vienna. Even now the ſouthern nations of Europe were grappling with them, as in a death ſtruggle. Cruſhing defeats, ſuch as 'The great ſea-fight of Lepanto,' and they were rare enough, ſeemed hardly to diminiſh the numbers or check the power of the Turks, or to procure for the Chriſtians even a moment's breathing time. Need we wonder, then, if

ofttimes men's hearts failed them, for fear, for dread, and for deſpair?

With the power of the Great Turk conſider the might of the king of Spain. In addition to Spain, the Low Countries, Naples, and Sicily, Philip II. poſſeſſed colonies in the New World, in the aggregate as vaſt as Chriſtendom itſelf. He was the moſt potent Chriſtian king, drawing fabulous riches from the New World for the maintenance of large armies and fleets in the Old, which he employed as much in extinguiſhing the liberties of his ſubjects as in attempting to cruſh thoſe who choſe to win for themſelves and their poſterity, at the utmoſt hazard of their all, the precious eſſentials of exiſtence: freedom of thought, of action, and of worſhip.

Contraſted with theſe two Empires, then at their zenith, the poſition of England, as an European ſtate, was comparatively inſignificant. To the Turks, the Engliſh were but a hardy variety of Chriſtians, to whom —following their cuſtom with regard to all the foreign nations with which they came in contact—they gave the deſignation, as an appropriate nickname, of 'The Clothiers.' To the Spaniards, they were execrable heretics, doomed to be conquered by them in this world, and to endleſs torment in the next.

Nothing but utterly reckleſs daring, nothing but almoſt ſuperhuman endurance and courage, nothing but a national character deeply imbued with the ſimpleſt reliance upon the Saviour of mankind, could ſave—did ſave our iſland home from the ultimate graſp of one or other of theſe mighty deſpotiſms.

By the good providence of God, the ſcale has been turned. Victoria benignly rules an Eaſtern Empire

more populous than that of Amurath; foſters colonies larger and richer—richer not only in gold 'that periſheth,' but in all the conſtituents of human happineſs, all the elements of human progreſs—than ever poſſeſſed Philip II.; and is enthroned in the hearts of a people more united and infinitely more powerful than were ever the ſubjects of her great predeceſſor, Elizabeth.

Though the following jottings from the memory—enfeebled by ſuffering—of 'a simple man void of learning,' are of but little hiſtorical value; they give us a paſſing glimpſe of the vaſt whirlwind of conflicting forces then raging over Southern Europe; of ſome of the dangers that beſet Engliſh commerce beyond the narrow ſeas; and of that Engliſh pluck and endurance which won unto itſelf the power and renown which have come down to us from our forefathers.

Webbe is every inch an Engliſhman. In nothing more ſo than in the cheerful, modeſt, yet dauntleſs deſire with which—after having through eighteen years of ſlavery experienced what could be inflicted upon him by the ſeverity of the Tartars, by the harſher cruelty of the Turks, and by the ſtill fiercer ferocity of the Chriſtians—he concludes his narrative:—'I ſhall be glad and do daylie deſire that I may be imployed in ſome ſuch ſervice as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.' The epic of modern hiſtory is to be found in the Elizabethan age.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDWARD WEBBE HIS TRAUAILES.

(a) Issues in the Narrator's life time.

I. As a separate publication.

1. [1590]. London. 1 vol. 4to. *Editio princeps:* see title on opposite page. It has no wood cuts. [Of this first edition the only other Copy as yet known is that purchased at Nassau's sale by Mr. Jadis, at whose sale again it was purchased for £14 14s. *Grenville Catalogue, British Museum.*]

2. [1590]. London. 1 vol. 4to. Printed by A. J. for VVilliam Barley, dvvelling in Gratious streete neere leaden hall.

A reprint of No. 1; with the addition of six woodcuts, one of which, repeated also as a frontispiece, represents Webbe as a young man walking.

3. 1590. London. 1 vol. 4to. *Second edition.* Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author. London. Printed for William Wright. 1590. With six woodcuts, five of which are those of No. 2: the portrait of Webbe, also repeated as a frontispiece, being altered to an older man firing a cannon.

The only important addition is the following in the 'Epistle to the Reader.'

'And whereas in the first edition of this booke a great fault in number did negligently escape in Folio 3 [see page 21.] in these wordes 30 thousand for 300 thousand: and 50 thousand for 500 thousand. that fault is truely amended in this Edition.' These alterations have been made in the present edition.

(b) Issue subsequent to the Narrator's death.

I. As a separate publication.

4. 1 May 1868. London. 1 vol. 8vo. *English Reprints:* see title at page 1.

THE

Rare and moſt vvonderful thinges which Edward Webbe an Engliſhman borne, hath ſeene and paſſed in his troubleſome trauailes, in the Citties of Ieruſalem, Dammasko, Bethelem and Galely: and in the Landes of Iewrie, Egipt, Gtecia, Ruſſia, and in the Land of Preſter Iohn.

Wherein is ſet foorth his extreame ſlauerie ſuſtained many yeres togither, in the Gallies and wars of the great Turk againſt the Landes of Perſia, Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugall, with the manner of his releaſement, and comming into Englande in May laſt.

LONDON,

Printed by Ralph Blower, for Thomas Pauier, & are to be ſolde at his ſhop in Corn-hill, at the ſigne of the Cat and Parrats, ouer againſt Popeshead alley, nere the Royal Exchange.

¶ The Epistle to the Reader.

GVrteous Reader, I haue undertaken in this ſhort diſcourſe, to vtter vnto thee ye moſt part of ſuch things as I ſaw and paſſed in the time of my troubleſome trauell and ſlauiſh life ſuſteyned in the Gallies, and wars of the great Turke.

And this I do proteſt, that in this booke there is nothing mentioned or expreſſed, but that which is of truth: and what mine own Eies haue perfectly ſeene. Some fooliſh perſons perhaps will cavel and ſay, that thieſe are but Lies and fables: and that it conteyneth nothing elſe: but to thoſe I aunſwere, that whatſoeuer is herein mentioned, he whoſoeuer he be, that ſhall ſoe finde faulte, and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but make inquirie of the beſt and greateſt trauellers and Merchants about all this land: and they doubtles will reſolue them that it is true which is here expreſſed: with a great deale more, which now I cannot call to remembrance, for that my memory faileth me, by meanes of my great and greeuous troubles. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May. 1590.

Your Loving cuntreman,

EDVVARD WEBBE.

TO THE MOST MIGHTY, MY GRATIOVS AND RENOWNED SOVERAIGNE, ELIZABETH by the grace of God Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

YOVR HIGHNESSE MOST HVMBLE SVBIECT, Edward VVeb, hartely prayeth for the continuance of your Maieſties health and proſperous raigne to the worldes ende.

Onſidering (moſt Gracious and dread Soueraigne) the wonderful prouidence of Almightie god ſhewed towardes your Highneſſe ſince the time of your moſt happie and proſperous raigne, aſwell in the preſeruation of your Maieſties perſon from the handes of your highneſſe enemies, as alſo, in defending this ſmall Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of forraine foes: and the continuall bleſſings of peace and plentie, with which euer ſince, he hath in bountifull ſort maintained it: I coulde not therefore but (according to my dutie) render humble thankes to almightie god for the ſame when to my great comfort, euen in the midſt of my thraldome in Turkie, I did heare it moſt truely reported by a Chriſtiane Captiue, and your Highneſſe Clemencie, by him highlly commended. The Report of whoſe fame truly diſcribed, aſwell in the adminiſtration of iuſtice, and ſupporting of Chriſtian religion, as alſo in relieuing and ſuccouring the poore

diſtreſſed members of this lande, gaue me iuſt cauſe to pray hartely for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to ſee your highneſſe (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Natiue Cuntrey: and now hauing obteyned my long expected wiſh, I doe in all humbleneſſe proſtrate my ſelfe, and this plaine diſcourſe of my trauels to your moſt excellent Maieſtie: wherein may be ſeene, that if in Turkie I would haue denied my Chriſt, or in my trauel [I] woulde haue forſaken my Prince to haue ſerued for Spaine, thereby to haue become a traytour to your Maieſtie and my natiue Cuntrey, I needed not to haue liued in want, but in great proſperitie: but for as much as almightie God hath now ſet me free from thraldome, and deliuered me from many daungers, and ſent me into Englande, my deſire is that I may be imployed in ſuch ſeruice and affaires, as may be pleaſing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntrey. And thus truſting your Highneſſe will accept in good worth this true diſcourſe (though rudely penned) I moſt humbly take my leaue, moſt hartely praying to the almightie god, for the proſperous health and continuall Raigne of your moſt excellent Maieſtie

Your Highneſſes humble ſubiect,

Ed. Web.

¶ Verſes Written vppon the Alphabet of the Queenes Maieſties name.

E ternall God, who guideth ſtill your grace,
L engthen your life, in health and happie days.
I nſpire your ſubiects heartes in euery place:
Z ealous in Loue, and free from ſecret hate,
A nd ſhorten life in thoſe that breede debate.
B eholde her Lorde, who is our ſtrength and ſtay
E uen he it is, by whom we holde our owne:
T urne not thy face from her in any way,
H ew downe her foes, and let them all be knowne.

R Enowned Queene, your highneſſe ſubiectes joy,
E uen for to ſeé the fall of all your foes:
G od of his mercy ſhielde you from annoy
I ntending treaſons, ſtill for to diſcloſe:
N one of vs all, but wil moſt duely pray,
A lmightie God preſerue you night and day.

FINIS.

Ed. Webbe his trauailes.

I EDWARD WEB an engliſhman, borne at S. Katherins, neere ye Tower of London, was the ſonne of one Richard Web maſter gunner of England: my father hauing ſome natural affection to me, when I was but xij yeares olde, did prefer me to the ſeruice of Captaine Jenkenſon, at ſuch time as he was ſent Ambaſſador into Ruſſia, with whom I went by Sea, and vpon him I was daylie attendant: in which my iourney, I was conuerſant among ye people of that Cuntrey, which were apparelled like the Turkes and Tartarians, with furde Caps and long garments down to their ſhins: much like to Carbines or Horſemen readie to ye warre.

There I made my abode ſome ſpace in the head Cittie of Ruſſia called Musko, in which their building is all of Firre, except the Emperors Court, which is of lime and ſtone. They execute very ſharpe lawes among themſelues, and are a kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their cuſtoms, of which, among many other, theſe I ſpecially noted: (*viz.*) that if any man be indebted one to another and doth not make paiment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vppon the debtors, and forceably breake down their houſes, and impriſon them in grieuous ſort where iudgment ſhal preſently paſſe againſt him, which is with a mallet of wood he ſhall haue ſo many blowes on the ſhinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Iudge ſhall awarde: and this puniſhment ſhall be inflicted ſundry daies upon him. The Turks do alſo vſe to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that ſort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the ſoles of their feet with a Cane, or elſe a Cudgell, if

that paiment be not made by a day. I alſo noted that if any Nobleman do offend ye Emperor of Ruſſia, the ſaide Nobleman is taken and impriſonned with al his Children and kinſſolkes, and the firſt great froſt that commeth, (for the Cuntery is wonderfully cold and ſubiect to much froſt) there is a great hole made in the Iſe ouer ſome great Riuer, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wife, his Children, and all other his kins-folkes; and ſo leaue none of his poſteritie to poſſeſſe his Lands or goodes, but the ſame are beſtowed vppon others, at the Emperors pleaſure.

There I ſtaide 3 yeeres attendant on my maiſter, in which time the Crime-Tartarians [otherwiſe named the new Chriſtians] made warre vpon the ſaid Cittie of *Musko*,[2] which ſoone after was betrayed, and ſpeadely burned, the People in great aboundance maſſacred, and the Tartarian Souldiers had wonderfull greate and rich ſpoyles, in the ſame: there was I at that time with vij. other Engliſhmen taken priſoners, and for ſlaues were conueied to *Caſſa*, where the king of the Tartarians abideth and keepeth a ſtatly Court: being conueyed thither, we were ſet to wipe the feet of the kings horſes, and to become ordinarie ſlaues in the ſaid Court, to fetch water, cleaue wood, and to do ſuch other drudgery. There were we beaten three times a weeke with a horſe tayle: and thus in this ſort and miſerable ſeruitude wee ſtayed there fiue yeeres, then were we ranſomed from thence by our friendes, where we paide euery man 300. crownes, which is vij. s. vj d. a peece of Engliſh money. Among that people called ye Tartarians, I noted eſpecially this one thing, that their Children being new borne, do neuer open their eyes vntill they be ix. dayes and ix. nights olde. Thus being ranſomed as is aforeſaid, I returned home into England, where hauing ſtaied ſome ſmal time, I went againe into Ruſſia in the hart of maſter Kings of Ratcliffe *with thirty ſaile* of ſhips more in our company, at

which time her Maieſties ſhippe called the Willoughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning to the company of the Marchants, was our Vice-admirall, Maiſter William Burrow then being our Captaine and maiſter: in which our voyage we met with v. Rovers or men of war,[1] whom we ſet vppon, and burnt their Admirall, and brought thoſe ſhips into Narr, and there the men ware maſſacred in this manner by the Ruſſians: firſt great ſtakes driuen into the grounde, and they ſpitted vppon Powles, as a man wouldeput a Pig vpon a Spitte, and ſo vij. ſcore were handled in that manner in very Tyranous ſort. We vnladed our bourthen at *Narre*, and tooke in our lading for our commodities, but the ſhip wherein I was (which is called the Hart) hauing ſayled but xij. miles from thence, ſtroke vpon a Rocke, whereby the ſhip and goodes were loſt, the reſidue of the fleet had no harme, and all the men ſaued their liues by taking themſelues into the Boat of the ſame ſhip.

By meanes of which ſhip ſo caſt away, I loſt all that I had, and then came againe into England, and gathered a new ſtocke, and in the Henrie of London I went to *Levanra* alias *Legorne*. This ſhip called the Henrie had bin ſolde before to Doctor Hector, and other Italian Marchants, which was vnknowne vnto vs, ſo that at our comming to *Legorne* the ſhip was ſeized on by the factors of thoſe that were the owners thereof, and by them laden with merchantdize to *Alexandria*, in which voyage my ſelfe was Maſter gunner.

But heere fortune began to lowre on me againe, and turne her wheele in ſuch ſort againſt me, as I that was ſoone after brought to liue in greater ſlauerie than euer I did before, for we hauing ſafelie ariued at *Alexandria*, diſchardged our burthen: and fraughted our ſhip with great ſtore of that Cuntrey commodities, and returning back to *Legorne*, ſuddainly in the way, we met with Fiftie ſaile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, and made great ſlaughter amongſt their men, we being in all but three ſcore men very

weake for ſuch a multytude, and hauing loſt 50. of 60. men, faintnes conſtrayned vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reaſon we wanted Winde to help our ſelus withall, and the Calme was ſo great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to eſcape. Thus did the Turkes take the ſhip and goodes, and in the ſame found x of vs liuing whom they tooke Priſoners and preſently ſtripped vs naked, and gaue vs 100 blowes a peece, for preſuming to fight againſt them.

Then were we ſent to *Conſtantinople*, and then committed to the Gallies, where we continued the ſpace of vj yeeres: the manner of our vſage, there, was thus.

Firſt we were ſhauen head and face, and then a ſhirt of Cotten and Breeches of the ſame put vppon vs, and our Legs and Feete left naked, and by one of the feet is each ſlaue chayned with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes faſtned with a payre of manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was very blacke, far worſe then Horſe-breade, and our drinke was ſtinking water, (vnleſſe it be when we come to the places where we tooke in freſh water] at which time we ſuppoſed our diet to be very daintie.

Thus as I ſaide before, I remained vj. yeeres in this miſerable ſtate, wonderfully beaten and miſvſed euery day: there haue I ſeene ſome of my fellowes when they haue bin ſo weake as they could not row by reaſon of ſicknes and faintnes, where ye Turkes woulde lay vpon them as vpon Horſes, and beat them in ſuch ſort, as oft times they dyed, and then threw them into the Sea.

Thus ſeeing my ſelfe ſtill to continue in this miſerable ſtate, I was conſtrained for want of victualles, to diſcouer my ſelfe and to ſhew them that I had good ſkill in Gunners art, which I thought would haue bin greatly wel eſteemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the ſame, I was more narrowly looked vnto, yet ſomewhat better eſteemed of, then I was before. Not long after, the Turke made warres againſt the Perſians, and gathered vij. hundred thouſand men togither, and theſe were conducted by his chief Baſſaes into Perſia:

At which time (for that I had ſkil in Artillery) I was choſen foorth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Perſia, and there to do the Turke ſeruice in the fielde, with whom I trauailed on foote, but in our going thither, their dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great ſicknes, diet, and want of Victuals, about the number of 300. thouſand ſo that when wee came into perſia, we were foure [hundred] thouſand ſtrong in the fielde, there wee reſted vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our ſelves) gaue a fierce aſſault againſt the Perſians, where the Turks ſide got the worſt, and loſt 60 thouſand men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whoſe name was Sannon Baſha, ſent vs ſo many ſouldiers more as made vs 500 thousand ſtrong, there we ſtaide for a long time, making warres againſt the Perſians, and the greate Cittie of Damaſco, where the Turke little preuayled: for if that the Turke were as pollitick as he is ſtrong of power, the Perſians were not able to reſiſt him.

Thus leauing the Turkes Armie in Perſia, we came through Damaſco to our Cittie called the great *Caer.* which Cittie is three ſcore miles in compaſſe, and is the greateſt Cittie in the world, it ſtandeth vpon the riuer of Nilo, and in the ſaid Cittie, there is 12 thouſand Churches, which they tearme Muſcots.

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thouſand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one houres warning to ſerue under the Turke: there we ſtaide to ſee the cutting or parting of the Riuer of Nilo, which is done once euery yeere, vpon the 25 of Auguſt. This Cittie ſtandeth in the land of Egipt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the ſaide Cittie, who is called the king of the great Caer, and ye Wize Roy or Lieftenant to the great Turke, and he is then preſent at the cutting or parting of this river of Nilo: at which time there is a great triumph, and euery Towne and Cuntrey round about to the value of a thousand mile, ſend guiſts and *preſents to the* king of the great Caer, in conſideration

of the water which commeth to them from that Riuer of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderſtood, that in ye Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the lande of Egipt is continually watred by the water which vppon ye 25 day of Auguſt is turned into the cuntries round about, by means of ye wonderfull growing and ſwelling of the water vpright without any ſtay at all, on the one ſide thereof, it is to ye height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increaſe the 15. day of Auguſt, and by the 25. of the ſame moneth it is at the higheſt, on which day it is cut by ye deuiding of 2 pillars in a ſtraunge ſort, neere to the cittie of ye great *Caer*. and ſo turned as off from a great mountaine into the lande of Egipt: by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in ſubiection to him ſelfe, and might if he would diſmiſſe them cleane from hauing any water at all.

From thence I went with the Turkes power, and vnder his conduction to the lande of Iewry, and from thence to the citty of Ieruſalem, where part of the olde Temple is yet ſtanding, and many Monuments of great antiquitie, as herein after ſhall be ſhewed.

In the Land of *Siria*, there is a riuer that no Iew can catch any fiſh in it at all, and yet in the ſame riuer there is great ſtore of fiſh like vnto Samon trouts: But let a Chriſtian or a Turke come thither and fiſh for them, and eyther of them ſhall catch them in great aboundance, if they do but put their hande into the water with a little bread, and an hundred will be about his hand.

Thus hauing ſeene a number of rare and moſt wonderful things, we went to the citty of *Agowa*, which is ye head and chief citty in all ye Eaſt Indies, there wee gaue Battell againſt ye Chriſtians yat keep ye ſaid citty, which are Portugals, for that ye Town appertaineth to ye king of Portugal. In this place wee gaue *Battle and loſt* xx thousand of ye Turks men, and yet

could not obtain it: Neuertheles ye great Turks Lieftenant or Generall with his power toke a place called *Armous*, where they had great ſtore of Treaſure and Sowes of Silver.

Thus being chiefe maiſter Gunner in theſe Turkiſh warres, I was ſent for againe by commandement of ye Turk to Daſmaſeo, where I ſtaied all that winter with xx thouſand men. And from thence made prouiſion to make wars againſt the land of Preſter Iohn, who is by profeſſion a Chriſtian. In this land of Preſter Iohn, when it doth raine, it continueth at the leaſt one whole moneth. And in ye graund Caer, there is a plague once in euery vij yeeres, which commeth with ſuch a fiercenes, that the moſt part of all the people there do die of the ſaid plague: and people in great numbers loſe their Eie ſight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

I remember one battaile, which ye Admirall of the great Turke named Ally Baſha made with three-ſcore Gallies, and ſeazed vpon a towne where the ſaid Ally Baſha was borne himſelfe, named Trybuſas, which is in ye confines of Calabria and vnder ye gouernment of the king of Spaine, at which towne he landed his Armie an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treaſon: and there vpon in great fury ſcaled the wals with lathers: but the watch bewraied vs, and on a ſodaine, cried Arme, Arme, which was ſoone done: for euery man tooke him to his tooles and weapons of defence.

But it is worthy of memorie, to ſee how the women of ye towne did plie themſelues with their weapons, making a great maſſacre vpon our men, and murthered 500 of them in ſuch ſpeedie and furious ſort as is wonderfull: we needed not to haue feared their men at all, had not ye women bin our great ouerthrow, at which time I my ſelfe was maiſter Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chainde greeuouſly, and beaten naked with a Turkiſh ſword flatling, for not ſhooting where they *would haue* me, and where I could not ſhoot. It is

but a few yeares ſince, that in the cittie of Conſtantinople, there happned a great plague, where there dyed in ſix monethes ſpace, ſeuen hundred thousand. perſons, at which time maſter Harbarn Ambaſſadour for the Turkie company was there, and loſt ſundry of his ſeruants.

From Damaſco we went into the land of preſter Iohn who is a Chriſtian, and is called *Chriſtien de Sentour*: that is, the Chriſtian of the Gerdell:[3] againſt this preſter Iohn, I went with the Turks power, and was then their maiſter Gunner in the field, ye number of Turkiſh Souldiers ſent thither, was fiue hundred thousand men who went thither by land, and pitched themſelues in battaile ray at Saran, neere to the place wher the ſon of preſter Iohn keepeth his Court. There Preſter Iohn with his power, ſlew of ye Turks the number of 60. thousand. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let foorth water, made as ſecrete ſlewſes for that purpoſe, in which water ſo many Turks periſhed. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompaſſe Preſter Iohns ſonne and tooke him priſoner, and ſent him for a preſent to ye great Turks Court then being at Conſtantinople, but ſoone after, preſter Iohn himſelfe made an agreement betweene the greate Turke and his ſonne, that the one ſhoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and ſo his ſonne was releaſed and ſent home againe.

This Preſter Iohn of whom I ſpake before, is a King of great power, and keepeth a very bountifull Court, after the manner of that Cuntrey, and hath euery day to ſerue him at his Table, ſixty kinges, wearing leaden Crownes on their heads, and thoſe ſerue in the meat vnto Preſter Iohns Table: and continually the firſt diſh of meat ſet vppon his Table, is a dead mans ſcull cleane picked and laide in black Earth: putting him in minde that he is but Earth, and that he muſt die, and ſhal become Earth againe.

Theſe 60 Kings are all his Wize Royes in ſeuerall places, and they haue their Deputies to ſvpply their Roomes, and thoſe kings liue continually in Preſter

Iohns Courte, and go no furder then they may be ſtill attendant vppon him, without leaue of their Emperour Preſter Iohn.

In the Court of Preſter Iohn, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high ſtreet at Conſtantinople, whoſe allowance is euery day a quarter of Raw Mutton: and when any man dyeth for ſome notorious offence, then are they allowed euery day a quarter of mans fleſh.

Theſe wilde men are chained faſt to a poſt euery day, the one in Preſter Iohns Court, and the other in the high ſtreet of Conſtantinople, each of them hauing a Mantel caſt about their ſhoulders, and all ouer their bodies they haue wonderfull long haire, they are Chained faſt by the neck, and will ſpeedily deuoure any man that commeth in their reach.

There is alſo a Beaſt in the Court of Preſter Iohn, called Arians, hauing 4 heades, they are in ſhape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a great maſtie Dog.

In this Court likewiſe, there is Fowles caled Pharses foules whoſe feathers are very beautifull to be worne, theſe fowles are as big as a Turkie, their fleſh is very ſweet, and their feathers of all manner of Collours.

There is Swannes in that place, which are as lardge againe as the Swannes of Englande are, and their Feathers are as blew as any blew cloath.

I haue ſeen in a place like a Park adioyning vnto preſter Iohns Court, three ſcore and ſeuen-teene, Vnicornes and Eliphants all aliue at one time, and they were ſo tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

When Preſter Iohn is ſerued at his table, there is no ſalt at all ſet one in any ſalt ſellar as in other places, but a loafe of Bread is cut croſſe, and then two kniues are layde a croſſe vpon the loafe, and ſome ſalt put vpon the blades of the kniues and no more.

Being thus in the land of preſter Iohn, I travelled within Eighteene degrees of ye Sun, euery degree being in diſtance three ſcore miles.

I was at the Red Sea, at the place where *Moyſes* made paſſage with his wande for the Children of Iſraell, where I ſaw a Ship called the *graund Maria*, ſhe drawes but xj foot water, and againſt this ſhip lx Gallies and ſhips haue fought at one time, and cannot conquer her: and this is vnder the gouernment of ye great Turke.

I haue beene in the Courts of the three great Patriarkes, the firſt whereof is kept at Ieruſalem, the ſecond at the Gran Caer, and the third at Conſtantinople: theſe haue their Courts in very ſtately ſort, and attended on by none but Prieſts.

When I was at Ieruſalem, I ſaw the Sepulchre wherein (it is ſaide) Chriſt was buried: it is as it were in a Vault, and hath vij Dores, and vij Roes of Marble ſteppes or ſtayres to go downe into the ſame, and then at the bottom of ye ſtayres, there is a faire Chappel, with an Altar and a Lamp burning continually day and night before it, and the Graue is full of white Earth, as white as Chalke, and a Toombe of ye ſame Earth made, and laide vppon Stone, wheron are ſundry Letters written, but I could not read them.

The great Turk hath ſome profit comming by ye keeping thereof, and hath therefore builded at his owne charges an Hoſpital within Ieruſalem, which his Genezaries doe keepe: and this Hoſpitall is to receiue all Pilgrims and trauellers to lodge in whenſoeuer they come. And all that come to ſee the ſepulchre doe pay ten Crownes a-peece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the reſt goes to the Church, and ſo they may ſtay there as long as they liſt to lodge in that new Hoſpitall, and haue lodging, bread, victuals and water ſo long as they will remaine there, but no wine: ſuch as come thither for Pilgrims haue no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on Turkey Carpets, and before the ſepulcher of Chriſt there is maſſe ſaid euerie day, and none may ſay the maſſe there, but a man that is a pure virgin: there was one that dyed while I was there, that daily

ſaid and ſung maſſe before the ſepulcher, and he was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in his Roome, but whether ye old man that dead is, or this which is now in the place to ſing and ſay the ſaid Maſſe, were pure Virgins I know not, but ſure I dare not ſweare for them, becauſe they bee men, and fleſh and bloud as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and ſpent my time in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Conſtantinople, where at my ariuall, a pennie loafe of Breade (of Engliſh ſtarling money) was worth a crowne of gold: ſuch was the ſcarſitie, Sicknes, Miſery and Dearth then vpon ye ſaid Cittie, and happie was he that ſo could get Breade to eate. Neuertheleſſe, becauſe I was a Chriſtian, and for that ye Turke had no cauſe preſently to vſe me in my office of gunnerſhip, I was there impriſoned, where I found two thouſand. Chriſtians pind vp in ſton wals lockt faſt in yron chaines, grieuouſly pinched, with extreme penury, and ſuch as wiſhed death rather then in ſoch miſery to liue: amongſt theſe was I placed, and tooke part with them accordingly: greeuing at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remained there with the reſt, garded and daily watched, that we could ſtir no manner of way, there wee were ſuffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we ſold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the ſame: and thus were we ſuffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vſed yearely of Cuſtome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great ſummes of mony paide him for ye ſaid ſnow, which is gathered and ſolde to his ſubiects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe Engliſh: and this ſnow they uſe only to coole their drinke in the ſummer ſeaſon. And no man may ſell any ſnowe vntill the Turke hath ſolde all his.

Thus liuing in this ſlauiſh life as is aforeſaid, diuers of vs complotted and hammered into our heads how we might procure our releaſement: wherevpon I attempted with the conſent of 5 hundreth Chriſtians, fellow ſlaues with my ſelfe, to breake a wall of fourteene foote broad, made of earth, lyme, and ſand, which we greatly moiſtened with ſtrong Vinegar, ſo that the wall being made moiſt therewith through the help of a ſpike of yron, fiue hundred of us had almoſt eſcaped out of priſon: but looke what ſhall be, ſhal be, and what God will haue, ſhal come to paſſe and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we hauing made meanes for our ſpeedie flight, as we were iſſuing foorth, we were bewrayed by ye barking of a dog, which cauſed the Turkes to ariſe, and they taking vs with the maner ſtopped vs from flying away, and gaue vs in recompence of our paines taking herein, ſeauen hundred blowes a peece vpon the naked ſkinne, *viz.* three hundred on the belly, and foure hundred on ye back.

Thus lying ſtill Priſoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleaſed God to ſend thether for the releaſemente of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maiſter Harborne, Ambaſſadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of England did behaue himſelfe wonderfull wiſely, and was a ſpeciall meanes for the releaſement of me and ſundrie other Engliſh captiues, who were ſet at libertie ſoone after the death of the great Baſha: thus by the meanes of the ſaid Maiſter Harborne I was ſet free from Thraldome, and by him ſent into England where I arriued on the firſt of May. 1589.

Whilſt I was remaining priſoner in Turkey, and kept in ſuch ſlauiſh manner as is Rehearſed the great Turke had his ſonne circumciſed, at which time there was great tryumphes and free liberty proclaimed for a hundred daies ſpace, that any Nobleman, gentleman, traueller, Chriſtian or other, might freely (without being moleſted) come and ſee the tryumphes there vſed, which were woonderfull: I my ſelfe was there conſtrained to

make a cunning peece of fire work framed in form like to ye Arke of Noy, beeing 24 yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawen on 6 wheeles, yet no man ſeene, but ſeemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawen by two Fiery Dragons, in which ſhew or Arke there was thirteene thouſand ſeuerall peeces of fire worke.

At the ſame time that I was Releaſed, there were ſet at liberty about xx Engliſh men, whereof I was one of the laſt: ſome of them are at this preſent in England. My ſelfe and others were releaſed by meanes of her Maieſties fauorable Letters, ſent to ye great Turke, brought by the foreſayd Maiſter Harborne: ſome by the Raunſome money gathered at ſundry times by the Marchants in the Cittie of London, for ye Godly purpoſe: of which, ſome of their names that were releaſed were theſe. Hamand Pan, Iohn Beer, Iohn Band, Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

Here may the bountiful Citizens of London ſee (as in a glaſſe) the fruites of their liberalitie and charitable deuotion giuen at ſeuerall times in the yeare towards the releaſement of poore captiues, ſuch as are conſtrained to abide moſt vilde and grieuous tortures, eſpecially the torture and torment of conſciens which troubled me and all true Chriſtians to ye very ſoule: for the Turk by al meanes poſſible would ſtill perſwade me and other my fellow Chriſtians while I was there the time of 13 yeares, to forſake Chriſt to deny him, and to beleue in their God Mahomet: which if I would haue done, I might haue had wonderfull preferment of the Turke, and haue liued in as great felicitie as any Lord in that countrey: but I vtterly denyed their requeſt, though by them greeuouſly beaten naked for my labour, and reuiled in moſt deteſtable ſorte, calling me dogge, diuell, helhound, and ſuch like names: but I giue God thankes he gaue me ſtrength to abide with patience theſe croſſes.

And though I were but a ſimple man voide of learning, yet ſtil I had in remembraunce that Chriſt

dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Chriſt therein ſaith: *He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my father which is in heauen:* and againe he ſaith: *Whoſoeuer beleeueth on me ſhall be ſaued, and haue life euerlaſting.* This comfort made me reſolute, that I would rather ſuffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my Sauiour and Redeemer Chriſt Ieſus.

After my free libertie granted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towardes England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua thirtie Engliſhmen ſtudients, I met alſo with an Engliſhman, who liued in the ſtate of a Frier, he brought me before the high Biſhop, where I was accuſed for an hereticke, and he brought me in two fals witneſſes to be ſworn againſt me (hauing before known me in Turkey) neuertheleſſe I diſproued his witneſſes, and they were found forſworne men, then was I ſet at libertie, and conſtrained to giue 15 Crownes towardes the finiſhing our Ladies ſhrine at Padua: and my accuſer and his witneſſes puniſhed.

From thence I came to ye Duke of Ferrara, where I was wel entertained and liberally rewarded with a horſe and fiue and twentie Crownes for the ſake of the Queenes Maieſtie of England.

From thence with my Paſport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popiſh Biſhop being an Engliſhman which ſhewed me great friendſhip, he is called Doctor Poole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an Engliſh gentleman named maiſter Iohn Stanley. And from thence I went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the Engliſh Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papiſt, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me paſſe, and vnderſtanding hat I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I again taken by ye Engliſh Colledge, and put e into the holy houſe 3 daies, with a fooles coate

on my backe, halfe blew, halfe yellowe, and a cockeſcombe with three bels on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Engliſhman whom I found there, and preſented my petition and cauſe to the Pope: who againe ſet me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there before ye vice-Roy, ſaying I was a man of great knowledge and an Engliſh ſpie.

Then I was committed to a darke Dungeon xvj daies, which time they ſecretly made enquiry where I had liue before, what my wordes and behauiour had beene while I was there, but they coulde finde nothing by me.

Thrice had I ye ſtrappado, hoiſted vp backward with my hands bound behinde me, which ſtrooke all the ioynts in my armes out of joynt, and then conſtrained to drinke ſalte water and quicklime, and then fine Lawne or Callico thruſt downe my throate and pluckt vp againe ready to pluck my hart out of my belly, al to make me to confeſſe that I was an Engliſh ſpie. After this, there were foure bard horſes prepared to quarter me, and I was ſtill threatened to die except I would confeſſe ſome thing to my harme.

Thus ſeauen moneths I endured in this miſerie, and yet they coulde finde no cauſe againſt me, then I wrote to the Vice-Roy to do me iuſtice, and he did write to ye K[ing] of Spain to know what ſhould be done with me: whereupon the king of Spaine wrote that I ſhould be employed in a Gunners roome: then was I entertained, and had 35 crownes a moneth, and had ye Kinges pattent ſealed for the ſame, and then vnderſtanding that three ſhips were comming towardes England I departed and fled from thence with them to my natiue Cuntry, in ye Grace of London by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maiſter thereof. Thus came I into England with great joy and hearts delight, both to my ſelfe and all my acquaintance.

The report in Roome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at ſuch time as the Spaniards came to inuade England, after I had beene releaſed of my impriſonment, as I paſſed through the ſtreetes, the people of that parts aſked me how I durſt acknowledge my ſelfe to be an Engliſhman, and therevpon to daunt me, did ſay, that England was taken by the Spaniards, and the Queene of England (whome God long preſerue) was taken priſoner, and was comming towards Rome to doe pennance: and that her highnes was brought thither, through deſarts, moiſt, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the way of her Maieſties paſſage, to ye intent that ſhe might haue gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire: with theſe ſpeeches they did check me, and I ſaid, yat I truſted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile me.

Many things I haue omitted to ſpeake of, which I haue ſeen and noted in the time of my troubleſome trauel. One thing did greatly comfort me which I ſaw long ſince in Sicilia, in the citie of Palermo, a thing worthy of memorie, where the right honorable the Earle of Oxenford a famous man for Chiualrie at what time he trauelled into forraine Countries, being then perſonally preſent, made there a challeng againſt al manner of perſons whatſoeuer, and at all maner of weapons, as Turniments, Barriors with horſe and armour, to fight a combat with any whatſoeuer. In the defence of his Prince and countrey: for which he was verie highly commended, and yet no man durſt be ſo hardy to encounter with him, ſo that all Italy ouer, he is acknowledged the onely Chiuallier and Noble man of England. This title they giue vnto him as worthily deſerued.

Moreouer, in the land of Egipt neere to the Riuer of Nilo, within ſixe miles of the Gran Caer. There *are ſeauen* Mountaines builded on the out ſide, like

vnto ye point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were builded in King *Pharoes* time for to keepe Corne in, and they are Mountaines of great ſtrength.

It is alſo ſaide, that they were builded about that time when *Ioſeph* did lade home his Brethrens Aſſes with Corne, in the time of the great dearth mentioned in the Scripture: At which time, all their Corne lay in thoſe mountaines.

In the Riuer of Nilo, there is long Fiſhes that are of tenne or twelue foote long, which ſwimmeth neere the ſhore, they are called the fiſhes of King *Pharao*, they are like vnto a Dolphin

Theſe Fiſhes are ſo ſubtile, that ſwimming neere the ſhore ſide, they will pull men or women ſodeinly into the Riuer and deuoure them.

In the Citie of the gran Caer, the houſes are of a very olde building, all of Lime and ſtone, and in moſt of the houſes the roofes are couered with fine gold, in a very workemanly ſort.

In Egipt there is ſmall ſtore of water, becauſe it neuer raineth in that Country, ſo that their water is very dangerous to drinke. They haue no ſprings at all in that country, and yet there falleth ſuch a dew euery night, as doth refreſh and keeps their hearbes and plantes in due ſort, and makes them ſpring very fruitfully

The Citie of Damaſco is very fruitfull and greatly repleniſhed with al manner of fruites whatſoeuer, as *Pombgranades*, *Orenges*, *Limons*, *Apples*, *Pears*, *Plumbes*, *Grapes*, and all other like fruites.

The Turkes are a people yat at ſome time they will attempt to doe wonderfull things as going vpon Ropes, and thruſting their ſwords in their naked fleſh, and ſtricke their ſworde in their fleſh like vnto a Scabbard: and many other things of great daunger.

In Turkie no man may ſtrike the graunde Cady, that is their chiefeſt Iudg, if any man do ſtrike him, immediatly he loſeth his Right Arme for his offence, without Redemption.

At my comming ouer into Englande from Rome, I was faine to fteal away, beeing then in yeerely fee to the King of Spaine, to be one of his chiefeft Gunners.

And if the Ship where in I came ouer, had bin taken, both they and I my felfe had dyed for that offence.

The old Cittie of Ierufalem is a very delicat place, and nothing there to be feene but a little of the old walles which is yet Remayning: and all the reft is Graffe, Moffe and weedes much like to a peece of Rank or moift grounde. They haue no Tillage at all in that partes.

The Citty of *Ierufalem* where the Temple now ftandeth is almoft a mile from the olde walles of Ierufalem: it is of a maruellous olde building, and there ftandeth the old Relicks preferued and kept as Monuments of great treafure.

Now to Returne where I left off, and declare vnto you in what fort I imploide my felfe fince my firft entring into englande: heere I vifited my friendes from May till November, and then I departed into Fraunce, where I had good entertainment at the Hands of the Renowned King and Captaine of this age, Henry of Burbon, King of Fraunce and Navarre, who Receiued me into Pay, and appointed me for his chiefe M[aister] Gunner in the fielde.

So that vppon Afh-wednfday laft, at his moft Renowned Battle fought vppon the plaine of Saint Andrew neere vnto *Drevx*: I was in feruice vnder him, where I gaue 3 charges vppon the Enemie, and they in fteede thereof, gaue vs fifteene fhot, and yet God be thanked peruailed not againft vs.

There were wee conftrained to make Bulwarkes of the dead bodies of our Enemies and of the Carcaffes of dead Horfes: where for my paines taking that day, the king greatlye commended me, and honorably Rewarded me.

But fhortly after my firft arivall in Fraunce, I was hated by fome lewde Gunners who envying that I

ſhould haue the Title to be Maſter Gunner in Fraunce, practiſed againſt me, and gaue me poyſon in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderſtoode, he gaue order to the gouernor of Deepe, that his Phiſition ſhould preſently ſee vnto me, who gaue me ſpeadely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodneſſe, I was againe reſtored to my former health.

Thus haue you hearde the manner of my cruell and moſt grieuous trauaile, my miſerie, ſlaverie, and crueltie which I haue ſuffred therein, the manner of ſome olde Ornamentes and the cuſtomes of ſuch as dwell in forraine nations far off; and in places where our Saviour and his Apoſtles were reſident, and preached vpon the Earth: my ſeruice done vnder ye great Turke, of *Perſia*, *Tartarica*, *Grecia*, and other places of ſeruice, I haue omitted therein my ſeruice done at the taking of Tunnis, and what I did in the Royle vnder Duke Iohn of Auſtria: and many other thinges which I coulde heere diſcouer vnto you: onely let this ſuffiſe, that I ſhall be glad, and do daylie deſire that I may be imployed in ſome ſuch ſeruice as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.

FINIS.

1. Capture of Danish Freebooters, by the English Russia Fleet, 10 July 1570. – In a letter to the Emperor of Ruſſia, dated *Narue*, 15 July 1570, by Chriſtopher Hodſdon and Captain William Burrough, there is a full deſcription of the capture of theſe Daniſh pirates.

Moſt mightie Emperour, &c. Whereas Sir *William Garrard* and his felowſhip the company of Engliſh merchants, this laſt Winter ſent hither to the *Narue* three ſhips laden with merchandiſe, which was left here, and with it *Chriſtopher Hodſdon* one of the ſayd fellowſhip, and their chieſe doer in this place, who when hee came firſt hither, and vntill ſuch time as hee had diſpatched thoſe ſhips from hence, was in hope of goods to lade twelue or thirteene ſailes of good ſhips, againſt this ſhipping, wherefore he wrote vnto the ſayd Sir *William Garrard* and his companie to ſend hither this ſpring the ſayd number of thirteene ſhips. And becauſe that in their comming hither wee found the Freebooters on the ſea, and ſuppoſing this yeere that they would be very ſtrong, he therefore gaue the ſaid Sir *William* and his Companie aduiſe to furniſh the ſayd number of ſhips ſo ſtrongly, as they ſhould bee able to withſtand the force of the Freebooters: whereupon they haue according to his aduiſe ſent this year thirteene good ſhips together well furniſhed with men and munition, and all other neceſſaries for the warres, of which 13. ſhips *William Burrough* one of the ſaid felowſhip is captaine generall, vnto whom there was giuen in charge, that if hee met with any the *Danſke* Freebooters, or whatſoeuer robbers and theeues that are enimies to your highneſſe, he ſhould doe his beſt to apprehend and take them. It ſo hapned that the tenth day of this moneth, the ſayd *William* with his fleete, met with sixe ſhips of the Freebooters neere vnto an Iſland called *Tuttee*, which is about 50. verſts from *Narue*, vnto which Freebooters he with his fleet gaue chaſe, and tooke of them the Admirall, wherein were left but three men, the reſt were fled to ſhore in their boats amongſt the woods vpon *Tuttee*, on which ſhip he ſet fire and burnt her. He alſo tooke foure more of thoſe ſhips which are now here, and one ſhip eſcaped him: out of which foure ſhips ſome of the men fled in their boates and ſo eſcaped, others were ſlaine in fight, and ſome of them when they ſaw they could not eſcape, caſt themſelues willingly into the Sea and were drowned. So that in theſe fiue ſhips were left but 83. men.

The ſayd *Wil. Borough* when he came hither to *Narue*, finding here *Chriſtopher Hodſdon* aforenamed, both the ſaid *Chriſtopher* and *William* together, in the name of ſir *William Garrard* and the reſt of their whole companie and ſelowſhip, did preſent vnto your highneſſe of thoſe Freebooters taken by our ſhips 82. men, which we deliuered here vnto *Knez Voiuoda*, the 13. of this moneth. One man of thoſe Freebooters we haue kept by vs, whoſe name is *Haunce Snarke* a captaine. And the cauſe why *we haue done it is this*: When we ſhould haue deliuered him

with the reſt of his ſelowes vnto the *Voiuodaes* officers, there were of our Engliſhmen more then 50. which fell on their knees vnto vs, requeſting that he might be reſerued in the ſhip, and caried back into England: and the cauſe why they ſo earneſtly intreated for him, is, that ſome of thoſe our Engliſhmen had bene taken with Freebooters, and by his meanes had their liues ſaued, with great fauour beſides, which they found at his hands. Wherefore if it pleaſe your highneſſe to permit it, we will cary him home with vs into England, wherein we requeſt your maieſties fauour: notwithſtanding what you command of him ſhalbe obſerued. Hakluyt. i. 401. Ed. 1599.

2. THE BURNING OF MOSCOW BY THE TARTARS, 24 MAY 1571. —Two accounts are preſerved in Hakluyt of this cataſtrophe.

(1) A letter of *Richard Vſcombe* to M. *Henrie Lane*, touching the burning of the Citie of *Moſco* by the *Crimme Tartar:* written in *Roſe Iſland* the 5. day of Auguſt 1571.

Maſter *Lane* I haue me commended unto you. The 27. of Iuly I arriued here with the *Magdalene*, and the ſame day and houre did the *Swalow* and *Harry* arriue here alſo. At our comming I found maſter *Proctor* here, by whom wee underſtand very heauie newes. The *Moſco* is burnt euery ſticke by the *Crimme* the 24. day of May laſt, and an innumerable number of people: and in the Engliſh houſe was ſmothered *Thomas Southam*, *Toſild*, *Wauerley*, *Greenes* wife and children, two children of *Raſe*, and more to the number of 25. perſons were ſtifeled in oure Beere ſeller: and yet in the ſame ſeller was *Raſe*, his wife, *Iohn Browne*, and *Iohn Clarke* preſerued, which was wonderfull. And there went into that ſeller maſter *Glouer* and maſter *Rowley* alſo: but becauſe the heate was ſo great, they came foorth againe with much perill, ſo that a boy at their heeles was taken with the fire, yet they eſcaped blindfold into another ſeller, and there, as Gods will was, they were preſerued. The Emperour fled out of the field, and many of his people were caried away by the *Crimme Tartar*: to wit, all the yong people, the old they would not meddle with, but let them alone, and so with exceeding much ſpoile and infinite priſoners, they returned home againe. What with the *Crimme* on the one ſide, and with his crueltie on the other, he hath but few people left. Commend me to miſtreſſe *Lane* your wife, and to M. *Locke*, and to all our friends. Yours to command, *Richard Vſcombe*. Hakluyt. i 402. Ed. 1599.

(2) Maſter Giles Fletcher. D.C.L. was ſent by Queen Elizabeth. in 1588 as Ambaſſador to the then Emperor of Ruſſia. While returning, he reduced his obſervations of the ſtate and manners of that country 'into ſome order': and publiſhed them under the title *Of the Ruſſe Common Wealth*. London 1591. [Reprinted in Hakluyt. i. 474—497. Ed. 1599] His account is as follows;

The greateſt and mightieſt of them [the Tartars] is the *Chrim Tartar*, (whom ſome call the *Great Cham*) that lieth South, and

Southeaſtward from *Ruſſia*, and doth moſt annoy the Countrie by often inuaſions. commonly once euery yeare, ſometimes entring very farre within the inland parts. In the year 1571. he came as farre as the citie of *Mosko*, with an armie of 200000. men, without any battaile, or reſiſtance at all, for that the *Ruſſe* Emperour (then *Iuan Vaſilowich*) leading foorth his armie to encounter with him, marched a wrong way: but as it was thought of very purpoſe, as not daring to aduenture the fielde, by reaſon that hee doubted his nobilitie, and chieſe Captaines, of a meaning to betray him to the *Tartar*.

The citie he tooke not, but fired the Suburbs, which by reaſon of the buildinges (which is all of wood without any ſtone, brick, or lime, ſaue certein out roomes) kindled ſo quickly, and went on with ſuch rage, as that it conſumed the greateſt part of the citie almoſt within the ſpace of foure houres, being of 30. miles or more of compaſſe. Then might you haue ſeene a lamentable ſpectacle; beſides the huge and mighty flame of the citie all on light fire, the people burning in their houſes and ſtreates, but moſt of all of ſuch as laboured to paſſe out of the gates fartheſt from the enemie, where meeting together in a mightie throng, and ſo preſsing euery man to preuent another, wedged themſelues ſo faſt within the gate, and ſtreates near vnto it, as that three ranks walked one vpon the others head, the vppermoſt treading downe thoſe that were lower: ſo that there periſhed at that time (as was ſayd) by the fire and the preſſe, the number of 800000. people, or more.

The *Chrim* thus hauing fired the Citie, and ſedde his eyes with the ſight of it all on a light flame, returned with his armie, and ſent to the *Ruſſe* Emperour a knife (as was ſayd) to ſtick himſelfe withall: obbraiding this loſſe, and his deſperate caſe, as not daring either to meet his enimy in the fielde. nor to truſt his friends or ſubiects at home. Chap 19. 'The borderers of Ruſſia.' fol. 66.

3. PRESTER OR PRESBYTER JOHN, was the name given by the Europeans of the middle ages to a dynaſty of ſuppoſed eaſtern potentates. The following account is the hiſtory of this legend: —About the beginning of the eleventh century, it began to be reported in Chriſtendom that a certain king beyond Perſia and Armenia had been met by the ſpirit of a departed ſaint in a foreſt; that he had been overawed into becoming a true believer; and that he had ordered all his ſubjects, to the number of 200,000, to adopt the ſame faith. As time paſſed by, the report ſeemed to receive corroboration. Envoys pretending to come from the land in queſtion arrived at Rome. Additional rumours, by what means nobody knew, found their way to the Weſt. The manners and cuſtoms of this newly Chriſtianized people were ſaid to retain many traces of the old patriarchal times. The chief was both prieſt and king, and was known on that account by the *name of Preſter* or Presbyter John. His tribe lived a peaceful

paſtoral life, following their flocks through the deſert, feeding upon fleſh and milk, and being ſo deſtitute of corn and wine that they were unable in the preſcribed manner to obſerve the faſt-days, or to partake of the euchariſt. Nor was the exquiſite primitive ſimplicity of his kingdom unadorned by ſubſtantial wealth and majeſty. Unbounded treaſures were at his command; many neighbouring nations were his tributaries; and he ſwayed ſupremely with a ſceptre of emerald.

Such pleaſing reports as theſe continued to be greedily ſwallowed by the ſuperſtitious in Europe, until inveſtigations commenced to be made. It then began to appear doubtful whether this happy land were not a mere Utopia, and whether this admirable Preſter John were not a mere creature of the popular fancy. Carpini, a Franciſcan friar who was ſent by Pope Innocent IV., in 1246, on an embaſſy to the Mongols, failed to diſcover the celebrated nation of Chriſtians. Not long afterwards another Franciſcan, William de Rubruquis, who penetrated into Aſia as far as Karakorum, could find none but a few Neſtorians, who had even heard of the great prieſt-king. Equally unſucceſsful were the Portugueſe explorers who reached India by the way of the Cape of Good Hope about the end of the fifteenth century. After fruitleſſly ſeeking for the Preſter in Aſia, they were fain to ſuppoſe, on few or no grounds, that they had found him in Africa in the perſon of an Abyſſinian prince. The reſult of all these explorations was, that inveſtigators have ceaſed to inquire into the truth of the ſtory of Preſter John, and turned their attention to an explanation of its origin. The moſt plauſible ſolution is that given by Moſheim in his *Church Hiſtory*. He ſuppoſes that a certain Neſtorian prieſt named John gained poſſeſſion of a throne in Aſiatic Tartary; that he ſtill retained the name of Presbyter after his acceſſion; and that the title of Preſter John was inherited by his deſcendants along with the throne, until his dynaſty was extirpated by the mighty Tartar emperor Gengiskan.—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, xviii., 511. *Eighth Edition.*

Among the curious deſcriptions of this fabulous empire is a ſmall work printed in French at Rouen in 1506, of which the title is ſimply PERRESTER IEHAN. While the imprint runs thus—*Cy finent la diuerſitie des hommes, des beſtes et des oiſeaux qui ſont en la terre de preſtre Iehan. Imprimees a Rouen Pour Richard rogerie demourant a morletz.*

It purports to be a letter from Preſter John himſelf to the Emperor of Rome and the King of France, and is dated 'from our holy palace, in the year of our birth 506.' It is a tiſſue of marvel after marvel: ſo as to render it hardly credible that it was ever ſeriouſly believed in. A few ſentences will ſhow its character.

"Preſter John by the grace of God all powerful king of all the Chriſtians: to the Emperor of Rome and to the King of France, our friends, greeting. We wiſh you to know of our ſtate and of government, that is to ſay, of our people and the different

kind of our animals And becauſe you ſay that our people do not agree in worſhipping God as you do in your country, we wiſh you to know that we adore and believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three perſons in one deity and one God alone. And we certify and ſend to you by our letters ſealed with our Seal concerning the ſtate and manner of our land and of our people And if you will come into our country, for the good that we have heard of you, we will make you lord after us, and will give you large lands and lordſhips.

Know then that we have the higheſt crown in all the world. Alſo gold, ſilver, and precious ſtones, and cities, caſtles, and towns. Know alſo that we have in our country forty-two kings, all powerful and good Chriſtians. Know alſo that we ſupport with our alms all the poor in our land whether native or foreign, for the love and honour of Jeſus Chriſt. Know alſo that we have promiſed in good-faith to conquer the Sepulchre of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt and alſo all the Land of Promiſe. . . . .

Alſo in our country are elephants [oliflans]; and another kind of animal, very great, called dromedaries; and white horſes, and white oxen, and alſo ſavage cattle with ſeven horns; bears and lions of different colours, that is to ſay, red, green, black, and white; and wild aſſes with little horns . . . And green horſes, that go faſter than any other animal in the world. Know alſo that we have griffons that will eaſily carry an ox or an horſe into their neſts for their little birds to eat.

Know alſo between us and the Saracens runs a river called Sydonis, which comes from the terreſtrial paradiſe and is quite full of precious ſtones, that is to ſay, emeralds, ſaphirs, rubies, chalcedonies, carbuncles, topas; and ſeveral other kinds that I do not mention: and of each we know the name and vertue. Know alſo that in our land is an herb called parmanable; and whoſoever carries it upon him, can enchant the Devil and ask him where he is going, and what he is doing on the Earth, and can make him tell; upon which account the Devil dares not be in our country." . . . . .

kind of our animals And because you say that our people do not agree in worshipping God as you do in your country, we wish you to know that we adore and believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three persons in one deity and one God alone. And we certify and send to you by our letters sealed with our Seal concerning the state and manner of our land and of our people And if you will come into our country, for the good that we have heard of you, we will make you lord after us, and will give you large lands and lordships.

Know then that we have the highest crown in all the world. Also gold, silver, and precious stones, and cities, castles, and towns. Know also that we have in our country forty-two kings, all powerful and good Christians. Know also that we support with our alms all the poor in our land whether native or foreign, for the love and honour of Jesus Christ. Know also that we have promised in good-faith to conquer the Sepulchre of our Lord Jesus Christ and also all the Land of Promise. . . . .

Also in our country are elephants [olifans]; and another kind of animal, very great, called dromedaries; and white horses, and white oxen, and also savage cattle with seven horns; bears and lions of different colours, that is to say, red, green, black, and white; and wild asses with little horns . . . And green horses, that go faster than any other animal in the world. Know also that we have griffons that will easily carry an ox or an horse into their nests for their little birds to eat.

Know also between us and the Saracens runs a river called Sydonis, which comes from the terrestrial paradise and is quite full of precious stones, that is to say, emeralds, saphirs, rubies, chalcedonies, carbuncles, topas; and several other kinds that I do not mention: and of each we know the name and vertue. Know also that in our land is an herb called parmanable; and whosoever carries it upon him, can enchant the Devil and ask him where he is going, and what he is doing on the Earth, and can make him tell; upon which account the Devil dares not be in our country." . . . . .